

Friends of Silver Lake Board Meeting

March 25, 2014 - 4PM

The meeting was called to order by President Ed DeJong. Members present were Jean Adams, Bob Busscher, Bill DeJong, Ed DeJong, Bob Henry, Tom Rickoff, Sue Sharp. Absent, Marty Hayden and Nancy Pechar

USGS / GVSU Lake Project Update

Bill gave an update on the USGS project. He and Ed were part of a phone conference on April 19 with representatives from USGS, GVSU, Progressive Engineering, and Silver Lake Improvement board - Larry Byl. All of the winter samples have been taken. USGS's website has a link to all the data. There are tables as well as information from each site. The link is

<http://mi.water.usgs.gov/projects/silverlake/>

USGS & GVSU will continue to collect data throughout the summer and early fall. USGS will begin building a model in late 2014 and draft their report during 2015. USGS is currently determining the sources of water coming into Silver Lake. They want to determine how much is ground water and how much is coming from tributaries. GVSU has pretty well determined that the internal loading from the bottom of the lake is not the problem so the work will concentrate on external water sources.

GVSU has landed another grant for \$30,000 to test the Gleotrichia algae in the lake. Gleotrichia is showing up in many Michigan lakes and Silver Lake will be a test site for the state.

The diagnostic evaluation is on schedule. Nutrient counts are lower this year than last but there is still a problem. USGS will not give any preliminary thoughts of what they think the problems are. Everyone is encouraged to go to the USGS website and look at the data. The website has links at the bottom of each page that explains how to read the data.

Progressive Engineering is currently developing a website for the Silver Lake Improvement Board which should be live in early May. Some pertinent data will be accessible from this website.

Al Steinman will be working to make specific recommendations of what we should do when the conclusions are drawn.

Treasurers Report :

Bill reported there has been little change since our last meeting. There were no expenses and we have received a few donations. There is \$9,197.00 in the checking account.

Nominating Committee Update:

Tom gave the report from the nominating committee. The committee felt it was important to have a diverse cross section of members. There are 3 positions open. Jean, Marty and Nancy are going off the board. Three new candidates have agreed to run. They are:

- Chris Olson - Owner of Mac Woods Dune Scooters .
- Dr. Jonassen - eye doctor in Hart and property owner on Upper Silver Lake.
- Dr. Walker - dentist and property owner in Floradale.

Jean made a motion to approve the slate of nominations. Bob Henry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Tucker from Silver Lake Resort campground is very busy this year, but would be a possible candidate for 2015.

Floradale information

The Health Department has put a moratorium on all wells and septic in Floradale. This moratorium has nothing to do with the USGS project.

URL / Website

Bill reported that he and Marty have been working on the URL / website and Chimp mail. Marty has some things on our website now. Bill is sending Marty information to include on the website. (such as the articles that have been in the Oceana Herald, Reports, etc.) The website should be a ready in the next 4 – 6 weeks. Links to the USGS information also be on our website. The plan is to have links to other activities such as the progress of the downtown park and the bike path as well. The URL for the website is friendsofsilverlake.org.

Chimp mail - is a way to manage the data base of the Friends of Silver Lake master list. We have about 900 names on the current Excel list. About 500 of the names are property owners. The rest are people that are interested in the lake. Of the property owners we have about 300 of the 500 emails. It looks like Chimp mail may do the trick, but names still need to be populated into the program. The emails we have are pretty clean, but there are 300-400 names we do not have emails or phone numbers for. We need to make a focused effort to expand our email address contact list.

Email address committee formed - Bob Henry volunteered to organize a committee to look at how we could try to get more emails. Bob Busscher and Sue Sharp will help Bob. Volunteers will be needed to help.

Communication to FoSL members:

Ed is working on sending out some emails to be sent to the FoSL contact list.

- a. One email regarding the fire department issue (see below),
- b. Information regarding the FoSL Annual Meeting
- c. Request help getting emails of neighbors
- d. Information on the downtown park and bike path to the lighthouse
- e. Announcing the new website (when it's ready)

Fire Department Issue:

Jean gave a report on the fire issue. Jerry Rivard and Kevin Ackley gave a final report to the Hart Area Fire Board. The fireboard said they probably would not respond. They have refused to meet with Jerry and Kevin. The next township meeting is April 8. Ed will put out an informational email to let the Friends of Silver Lake know about the meeting and encourage anyone to attend that is able to. He will attach a portion of the article Jean wrote for the paper and some bullet points. Members are encouraged to write a letter to the fire board with copies to the township board, encouraging them to work together and come to some type of an agreement. Jean will get Ed the names and addresses so Ed can include them in the email. A suggestion was made to do a petition drive to show we want there to be a fair & workable solution to the fire protection issue.

Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes Update:

Bob Henry reported that progress on the park is going well. Phase one is under way.

- Tree Removal & Park Entrance – Budgeted @ \$3,300 – funded! The trees have been removed.
- Double sided entry sign - Budgeted @ \$6,000 –
 - Silver Lake Sand Dunes Area Chamber has committed \$5,000 and
 - Great Lakes Energy People Fund had committed \$1,000.
 - Great Lakes Energy is going to bury the wire for the electrical service and the sign will be erected by sometime in June.
- Electrical Service will cost \$20,000
 - Apple & BBQ Cook-Off Festival committed to \$10,000
 - Golden Township committed to \$10,000.
- Parking Lot, walkways, nature trail will cost approximately 50,000. Funding sources and amounts are pending. Hopefully these grants will come through this summer.
 - Funding sources and amounts are pending
 - Coastal Zone Management Grant for \$25,000
 - Community Foundation of Oceana County for \$6,000
 - Local matching funds for \$19,000.

Bob will send some information on the park and the drawings to be included in the newsletter. They also would like to advertise that they are looking for volunteer labor to help this spring.

Bike Path Update:

Tom reported on the Bike Path project. The path would go from the road that goes past Mac Woods to the lighthouse. The DNR, Charlotte Kiefer from the state park, Tom and Bill have been working on this. They have hiked where the path would go. Currently they are working on a feasibility study to see if it is possible. The best news is that the DNR is really behind it. Several people will meet again in May. Barbara Nelsen from Sleeping Bear Dunes is coming to help with the feasibility study. The committee is very willing to work with the Friends of Silver Lake. Ron Olsen, the head of the DNR, has said he is very interested in working with groups like the Friends of Silver Lake.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in June, which is June 7, 2014. It will be held at Grace Adventures at 9AM (pending approval from Grace Adventures). Everyone is encouraged to attend. The USGS will give an update on what they have been doing. Board members will be elected for next year.

Next Board Meeting:

The next meeting of the board will be Tuesday, May 13 at 4pm.